



# Winnebago Voter

## September / October 2010

### September / October Calendar

**Wednesday, September 8 Noon\***

**Food for Thought Lunch**

Vitale's Italian Cuisine 215 W. Murdock Ave.

*Allen Davis, Oshkosh Community Development*

*Director planning and development priorities. (See p. 2)*

**Monday, September 13, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

**Winnebago County LWV Board Meeting**

1707 Chestnut Street

**Tuesday, September 14**

**Primary Election Day**

**Polls Open 7 AM – 8 PM**

**Saturday, September 18, 9 – 11AM**

**Voter Registration**

Oshkosh Farm Market

**Thursday, September 23 6:30-8:00 pm**

Meet and Greet Don Viegut, Superintendent,

Oshkosh Area Public Schools

Oshkosh Public Library meeting room

**Monday, September 27, 5:00 – 6:30**

**Candidates Forum**

Gordon Hintz & Jonathan Krause

4<sup>th</sup> Floor Oshkosh City Hall

**Friday-Saturday Oct. 1-2 Madison, WI LWV**

**Membership Training and Issues Briefing**

**Monday, October 11, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

**Winnebago County LWV Board Meeting**

1120 Olson Avenue

**Wednesday, October 13 Noon**

**Food for Thought Lunch**

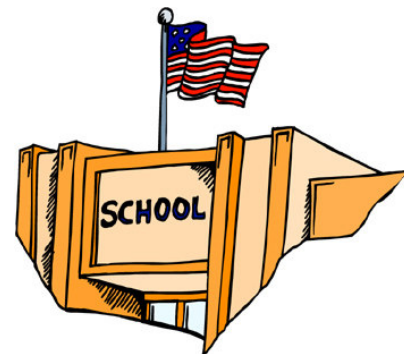
Vitale's Italian Cuisine, 215 E. Murdock Ave.

*Robert Way, Winnebago County Parks Director*

Meet & Greet

Don Viegut,  
Superintendent

Oshkosh Area Public  
Schools



Oshkosh Public Library  
Meeting Room

Thursday, September 23  
6:30 to 8:00

Check out these web addresses:

[www.lwvwinnebago.org](http://www.lwvwinnebago.org)

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

[www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org)

## County Board: Too Big? Too Small?

Judy Goldsmith, Fond du Lac County Supervisor, and Claud Thompson, Winnebago County Supervisor, discussed their differing view on county board size at the August Food for Thought lunch at Vitales on August 11. *(picture: J. Goldsmith and C. Thompson)*

In fall 2008 election, Fond du Lac County voters said “Yes” to a referendum reducing the size of their county board from 36 to 18 supervisors. A couple of years earlier, Winnebago County citizens began a drive to pur reduction of its county board to a referendum. However, the county board decided to reduce its number of supervisors from 38 to 36 thereby thwarting the action of its citizens to hold a referendum on board size.



Ms. Goldsmith was opposed to reduction of the Fond du Lac county board. She and two like-minded citizens prepared a pamphlet pointing out that reducing board size would not save money, promote more contested races or improve efficiency. What makes a board effective, she believes, is not related to its size. She was also concerned that the broad representation of Fond du Lac County would be lost if the number of supervisors were cut in half. She is hoping that under redistricting (that will occur as a result of the 2010 census) the board size will be increased to 21 or 25.

Claud Thompson believes Winnebago County voters were denied the opportunity to vote on board size. He thinks the board ignored the wish of the voters to have a referendum when the board took it upon themselves to cut two supervisor positions in the city of Oshkosh.

He hopes redistricting will lead to a reduction in board size. Problems rest with the committee system under which the board operates. This system would need to change once board size changed. Winnebago County has 113 committee assignments which are doled out to its 36 members. Some committees meet frequently; others, less than once a month. Some supervisors serve on several committees; others, on only one or two.

Though advocates of a large board see the larger size as more democratic, Mr. Thompson said that size does not make a board more or less democratic. He pointed out that the Oshkosh City Council and the Oshkosh Area School District boards each have only seven members. As a member of the school board for many years, Mr. Thompson said he was frequently contacted by voters on school issues. He has had only two calls from constituents in his years on the county board.

The Winnebago County LWV has a position supporting decreasing the size of the county board. The League realizes that it will be necessary to look at the number of committees and committee assignments.

**Food for Thought Lunch on Wednesday, September 8** features Allen Davis, Oshkosh Community Development Director. Mr. Davis will outline the goals for community development, inspection services and neighborhood services.

Mr. Davis, a Certified Planner, earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics and a Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He began his work with the city of Oshkosh on March 22, 2010

## Shoreland Restoration Tour Visits Three Sites

The Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Department guided 30 people on a tour of three Lake Winneconne shoreland restoration sites on Monday, July 26. The tour, sponsored by the Winnebago County LWV, the Winnebago Lakes Council and Wild Ones, visited two wooded sites and one non-wooded one in its first year. The first stop was the Gene and Anna Kuhns residence on Sunset Trail, Winneconne. Mr. Kuhns addressed the group and described how he had restored his shoreline leaving in place large basswood and cottonwood trees. The second site was adjacent to his property. Then the group drove the short distance to Tom and Karen Schmitz property on Paulson Road.

The Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Department provides expertise to shoreland property owners who wish to change the look of their shoreline, prevent runoff into lakes and rivers and provide nesting areas for birds and insects. The Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Department prepared the site and drilled the holes for plants in July, 2009. It helps property owners select plants and pays 70 % of the cost. The developments run from property line to property line and 30 to 35 feet from the water's edge. These 35 feet can contain rip rap and also pathways so property owners can easily get to their piers, and move boats in and out of the water.

Native plants are used as they have an extremely deep root system that is effective at stabilizing lake and stream banks and stopping erosion. Also, once established they require very little maintenance. Shoreland property owners interested in this program should contact the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department at the Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Rd. Y, Suite 100, Phone (920) 232-1950, website: [www.wclwcd.org](http://www.wclwcd.org).

*Pictures: below left Purple Martin houses on pier of Kuhns residence. Below right, one-year old shoreland restoration at Schmitz residence. Photos by Tom Mengeling*



## **Dr. Donald Viegut to Speak at Meet and Greet on September 23**

Winnebago County LWV is pleased to join with the Oshkosh Public Library and sponsor a Meet and Greet session with Oshkosh Area School District's newly appointed superintendent, Dr. Donald Viegut on Thursday, September 23 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Oshkosh Public Library's meeting room. The public is invited to listen and ask questions.

Superintendent Viegut, a native of Wisconsin, began teaching in 1981. Since then, he has also served as a curriculum coordinator, principal, director of curriculum and instruction, small school superintendent, large school deputy superintendent and superintendent. Prior to his coming to Oshkosh, he was deputy superintendent in Wausau.

Don has co-authored with Larry Ainsworth of the Center for Performance Assessment a national best selling book on classroom formative assessment: *Common Formative Assessments: How to Connect Standards-Based Instruction and Assessment*, 2006.

Don is mission-driven and truly enjoys his work. He has served on numerous boards at the state and national level, holding officer roles on several. Don is married and has three adult sons. He enjoys most outdoor recreation activities and collects antique woodworking tools.

***(Ed. Note: I have included the next two articles because League members are integral members of the sustainability group and the group looking into a warming shelter. FGM)***

### **Sustainability Group Sets Up First Project: Harvest Helpers**

The harvest season is fast approaching and a new community group has organized an initiative called "Harvest Helpers." The project is designed to assist residents who have fruit trees on their property but who may be unable to harvest the current crop. Harvest Helpers will arrange for volunteers to pick the fruit that then will be donated to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. Anyone who would like help in harvesting fruit from trees on their property may contact Meghan at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (920-651-9960). Harvest Helpers is also looking for additional volunteers to help with the harvesting activity. Volunteers should also contact Meghan.

The Harvest Helpers initiative is an outgrowth of study circles conducted over the past couple of years by a group of citizens interested in sustainable lifestyles. Three study circles facilitated by Winnebago County UW Extension Community Development Specialist Catherine Neiswender used *Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns Can Change to Sustainable Practices* by Torbjorn Lahti and Sarah James as their primary resource to explore a variety of sustainability initiatives that have proven successful in communities throughout Sweden and the Netherlands since 1989. Scientist Karl-Henrick Robert developed the Natural Step framework that proposes four principles to effectively advance society towards sustainability.

Over 120 people in Oshkosh and Fox Valley have participated in Natural Step Study Circles. Members of these study circles have met twice this summer to put into action what they have read and studied. Discussion about these sustainable practices and how to promote concepts to the broader Oshkosh community has led the group to focus on local sustainable agriculture. *(Information for this Article submitted by Dorry Wilner)Ed. Note: on August 28, Harvest Helpers did their first picking.*

On August 28-29, Harvest Helpers began their tree picking activities.

## **Warming Shelter Possible for Oshkosh?**

A community housing continuum has levels that proceed from a warming shelter on to independent housing. Oshkosh does not have a warming shelter. These shelters are usually open only in winter months from evening to early morning as a place where homeless people can get out of the cold, have a hot meal and a place to sleep for the evening. Residents must be over 18 and have a state I.D.; the average stay (based on figures from the Appleton warming shelter) is a couple of weeks.

In the fall of 2009, ESTHER, an interfaith group in Oshkosh, began an exploration of the need for a warming shelter in Oshkosh. Members of the organization spoke to Joe Geniesse who runs Father Carr's the Place to Be. This shelter on Koeller Drive is NOT a warming shelter, but rather is called an Emergency Shelter as its residents stay in separate rooms and receive services beyond a bed and a meal. The purposes and services of Fr. Carr's shelter differ greatly from a warming shelter. Including a warming shelter at this time is not feasible.

ESTHER examined and toured the warming shelters in Fond du Lac and Appleton. Currently Appleton's shelter takes in some of the homeless from Oshkosh. But, according to ESTHER research, the need in Oshkosh is great enough that the city should have its own shelter.

HUD (Housing and Urban Development) conducts a twice yearly Point in Time survey of all agencies that may come in contact with those who are homeless. This is a one day snapshot of local sheltering conditions. The Point in Time for July 2010 indicated that fourteen people had no shelter options in Oshkosh that day.

ESTHER's August 10 meeting on the issue drew a number of people representing non-profit and civic groups such as ADVOCAP, Salvation Army, area churches, Christine Ann Center, ARC, Oshkosh City Council, Winnebago County and the Department of Corrections.

Constant all night supervision by trained staff is needed as warming shelters are able to take people who are not accepted at emergency shelters. Most meals are prepared by volunteers. The creation of a warming shelter is not a simple thing. It will require a governing board, funding, location and staff. But other nearby communities have addressed the issue using resources from community coalitions. ESTHER believes that Oshkosh is a generous and caring community and the creation of a warming shelter, while ambitious, is not impossible.

When I interviewed Tina Haffemann on this issue in late August, I asked what the next step is. She said that ESTHER's role is to identify a community need, conduct research and then work to bring the community together for a solution.

### **Candidates Forum 54<sup>th</sup> State Assembly District**

Monday, September 27, 5:00 – 6:30 PM Council Chambers, Oshkosh City Hall

**Gordon Hintz, Democrat, incumbent**

**Jonathan Krause, Republican**

**This forum will be shown many times on CitiCable 10 and will also be available via video stream at [www.oshkoshcommunitymedia.org](http://www.oshkoshcommunitymedia.org)**



**League of Women Voters of Winnebago County**  
**DUES NOTICE September, 2010—August, 2011**

...not cover our expenses, we very much appreciate members who help us out with an additional contribution. This is a deliberate decision by the board to keep dues as affordable as possible. **Your generous contribution makes the difference!**

Per member, LWV-WC pays \$30 to the state League, and \$29.70 to the national League. We **lose** \$9.70 for each individual member and \$14.55 for each household membership, plus we have our own local expenses.

Please make your dues **check payable to:** LWV of Winnebago County

Please **mail your check to** the Treasurer: Karen Boehning  
 1202 Algoma Blvd.  
 Oshkosh, WI 54901

**Thank you in advance for your membership and your help.**

LWV of Winnebago County dues 2010-2011 Dues are NOT tax deductible. New members who joined in March or later need not pay again. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Basic Dues</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$50.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Household Dues (two members)</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$75.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Student Dues:</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$10.00</b></td> </tr> </table> New Categories: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Limited Income Dues</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$25.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Sustaining Membership:</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$100.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Centennial Membership:</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$150.00</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Basic Dues</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>Household Dues (two members)</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>Student Dues:</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>Limited Income Dues</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>Sustaining Membership:</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>Centennial Membership:</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	
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<b>Centennial Membership:</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>												
Additional donation to LWV Winnebago County This is not tax deductible but is very much needed and appreciated.													
<b>Total payable to LWV Winnebago County:</b>													
Optional: LWV-US Education Fund <b>This reduces our per-member payment and IS tax deductible.</b> Write a separate check to LWV-US Education Fund Send the check to Karen Boehning.													
Optional: LWV-WI Education Fund Tax deductible, separate check to LWV-WI Ed. Fund Send the check to Karen Boehning.													

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I want my email address shared with LWV-US and LWV-WI for updates  
 Please use my email address for LWV Winnebago County mail only

Your email address will be included on the League membership list that is distributed to local League members only.

From the Treasurer:

We very much value you as a member and we know you value League and all it does.

A dues-renewal form is included in this newsletter. We appreciate your promptness in handling this.

We are introducing new dues categories that we hope will attract additional members and give others the opportunity to demonstrate their support for the League.

If you read the fine print on the renewal form, you know that we count very heavily on our members paying more than the dues amount to balance our budget. Our basic dues of \$50/person and \$75/household don't cover our expenses, but our policy is to keep dues affordable so as many people as possible can join. **Hence, we've created a new \$25 Limited Income Category.** We depend on the commitment and generosity of our members to fill in the gap. **Hence, we now have our new \$100 Sustaining and \$150 Centennial Categories.** By becoming a Sustaining or Centennial member, you help expand advocacy, underwrite the \$25 dues category, and recognize the importance of a League presence in the community.

We plan on doing a fundraiser and we have included that income in our budget, but we still need your help. Anything you can pay over and above the dues amount is appreciated. Don't feel constrained by these categories.

A little more explanation on League donations:

- Donations and membership to LWV-Winnebago County are NOT tax deductible
- Donations to the LWV-US Education Fund ARE tax deductible AND offset our League's assessment for national dues.
- Donations to the LWV-WIS Education Fund ARE tax deductible but do not offset our assessment for state dues.

Please renew as soon as possible. **We want you to be a League member.**  
Please let me know if you have questions.

Karen Boehning, Treasurer  
426-2843  
boehningk@gmail.com

## The Winnebago Voter

1936 Hazel St.

Oshkosh WI 54901

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization of men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Visit <http://www.lwv.org>, <http://www.lwvwi.org>, <http://www.lwvwinnebago.org>

Members receive the bi-monthly *Winnebago Voter, Forward* from LWV-WI. Meetings are open to the public. Those interested in government and public policy issues will find their intellectual home here.

**League Membership:** \$50 (\$75 for two in household), \$10 for students

**Winnebago County Voter Subscription only:** \$10.00.

**Dues payable to:** LWV Winnebago County, 1202 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh 54901.

President Barack Obama  
[President@whitehouse.gov](mailto:President@whitehouse.gov)

Senator Feingold  
[russel\\_feingold@feingold.senate.gov](mailto:russel_feingold@feingold.senate.gov)

Senator Kohl  
[Senator\\_kohl@kohl.senate.gov](mailto:Senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov)

Rep. Tom Petri  
[tompetri@mail.house](mailto:tompetri@mail.house)

Gov. James Doyle  
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Sen. Randy Hopper (18<sup>th</sup> Dist)  
[Sen.hopper@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.hopper@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Rep. Gordon Hintz (54<sup>th</sup> Dist)  
[Rep.Hintz@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Hintz@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Sen. Michael Ellis (19<sup>th</sup> Dist)  
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Rep. Dean Kaufert (55<sup>th</sup> Dist)  
[Rep.Kaufert@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Kaufert@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Wisconsin Legislative Hotline: 800-362-9472 Capitol Hill switchboard (202) 224-3121